

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held September 25, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, and Councilmember Rob Vensel in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Representatives from the local VFW then led the prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, PUBLIC HEARING (TAX INCREASE) AND JOINT PUBLIC HEARING (GAME ROOMS): Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 City Council Meeting, Public Hearing (Tax Increase) and Joint Public Hearing (Game Rooms) as written and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that everyone received a copy of the September 11, 2023 Planning and Zoning Meeting.

PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 2023 GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL ROYALTY: Mayor Borne presented proclamations to the 2023 Groves Pecan Festival Royalty.

PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 5, 2023 AS WORLD TEACHERS' DAY: Mayor Borne presented a proclamation to local Groves' school teacher's in honor of World Teachers' Day.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and Mr. Ken Lofton from the local VFW 4820 gave a report on the VFW birthday which is celebrated September 29th.

Mayor Borne then asked for citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE FUNDS TO BE USED FOR ADVERTISING COSTS FOR THE GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL: Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval of an application for Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue funds to be used for advertising costs for the Groves Pecan Festival and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas informed Council that what was requested this year is only \$45 more than what was paid last year. Councilmember Dugas asked Chamber Director Letha Knaus how this money would be distributed and Mrs. Knaus stated that they have a package with Eco Media that they use each year that usually runs

about \$18,000. Mrs. Knaus informed Council that since they are bringing YOLO Texas in this year she worked with Eco Media to bring that budget down to \$14,000 so they would have some money to go towards YOLO Texas. Being that Eco Media was willing to negotiate that will help to free up \$4,000 for YOLO Texas fees. Mrs. Knaus also stated that this total price they are asking for will also cover advertisement cost for the Christmas Tree Trail and Small Business Saturday. Councilmember Dugas asked other than the \$15,000 quarterly payments what other payments would the City be paying the Chamber of Commerce. Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that the Christmas lights are a big one along with the Pecan Festival and other strategic advertisement reimbursements. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROVES AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURIST CENTER: Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval of an agreement between the City of Groves and the Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Center and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Dugas stated that the contract being proposed today is not the same as the previous contract. Councilmember Dugas also stated that the insurance paperwork that was in the Council Packets shows it being expired. Mrs. Knaus stated that the wrong paper work was sent and the insurance was renewed around May. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk listed multiple things that needed to be changed within the contract and Mrs. Knaus stated that she had fixed the contract but brought the wrong one. Councilmember Dugas also asked for the Chamber sending monthly financials to Council to be put in the contract. Councilmember Dugas then asked Mrs. Knaus to inform Council as to what the \$10,000 for Business Development and Promotion line item will be used for and Mrs. Knaus stated that they are redoing all of the publications for the Chamber. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that we will need to see the correct copy of the agreement along with the updated insurance information. Mayor Borne made a motion to table the consideration of an agreement between the City of Groves and the Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Center. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded the tabling of this item. Motion to table passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUATION OF LJA'S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES; STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR OCTOBER 1, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to consider approval of proposal for continuation of LJA's Environmental Services; Stormwater Management Program Implementation for October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 and Councilmember Dugas seconded.

Councilmember Vensel asked Public Works Director Troy Foxworth what all do we get with this \$18,000. Mr. Foxworth stated they make sure that things aren't dumped into our stormwater system and basically keep us in compliance. Councilmember Dugas asked Mr. Foxworth if he read through all of this and he had. Mr. Foxworth then added that it's in line with what we have been doing all along with possible new laws that may be coming in the near future. Mr. Foxworth informed Council that they also do a lot of advertising for public education. Councilmember Oliver asked if they actually help monitor it and give the City reports on what they find and Mr. Foxworth stated they do. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF THE REMAINING BALANCE OF THE BOND MONEY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FIRE STATION:

Councilmember Vensel made a motion to discuss and approve expenditure of the remaining balance of the bond money for construction of the new fire station and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud informed Council that we have a little over \$500,000 left to spend on this bond and we need a replacement pumper truck. Mr. Billeaud then talked about the different options we have to finish using this money. Lieutenant Josh Nelsen then informed Council about all of the different issues that have been going on with the current pumper truck. Mayor Borne asked Finance Director Lamar Ozley what the time frame was to spend the rest of the bond money and Mr. Ozley stated about a year and a half. Councilmember Vensel amended his motion to discuss and approve expenditure of the remaining balance of the bond money for construction of the new fire station to include purchasing the Pierce-Custom Enforcer Pumper Truck and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE TERMINATING THE CONTRACT WITH SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC ON WASTEWATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to discuss and approve terminating the contract with Schneider Electric on Wastewater Plant improvements and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked if we have to pay the \$145,000 all together and is it due by the end of the year and Mr. Ozley stated we do and we have the money budgeted for this year so we need to go ahead and take care of this. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER. THIS ITEM WILL BE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074.

Council went into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION: Council reconvened into open session at 6:58 p.m.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SELECTING A CANDIDATE FOR CITY MANAGER: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to table this item and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Motion to table passed unanimously.

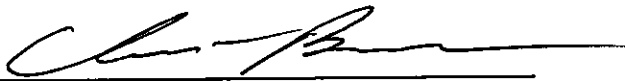
INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$721,280.41 as follows:

Albanese Cormier Holdings, LLC	Sub divider rebate for Indian Springs Development. For 2016-2022.	41,854.10
Blue Iron Technologies	Anti-Virus Subscriptions.	7,117.05
DXI Industries, INC.	CL2 & SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	11,146.20
Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and Diesel for August 2023.	24,404.
Houston Poly Bag	Trash bags for Water Office.	5,058.00
Jared's Paint and Body	Repairs to Police Vehicle.	12,047.40
Republic Services	Sludge disposal for August 2023.	10,309.97
Rural Pipe & Supply	Water line repair materials.	9,807.32
Schneider Electric Electrical for engineering services at the Wastewater Plant.	Contract termination with Schneider	145,000.00
Silsbee Ford	Purchase of new Ford Explorer.	52,630.20
South Houston Asphalt & Concrete, LLC	Construction on roads around new fire station.	401,905.80

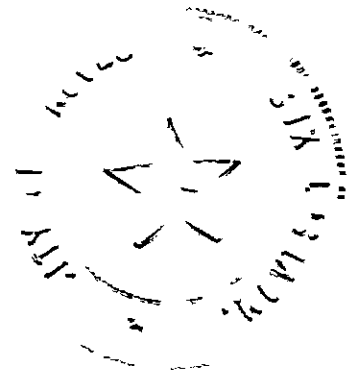
Councilmember Dugas moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$721,280.41 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked what the sub divider rebate is for Indian Springs. Finance Director Lamar Ozley explained that it was an agreement made with Cormier and they basically paid for all of the infrastructure in the Indian Springs Subdivision and the City will reimburse 50% of the water and sewer revenue generated by each house in that subdivision. That reimbursement is to help offset their cost for that construction. The reimbursement will either be for 20 years or \$1,419,553, whichever comes first. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember Comments and Councilmember Dugas stated that she went to the ribbon cutting for 5 point and it was very nice. Mayor Borne stated that he was able to go to the attend the Reagan Sheppard benefit and it was a big success. There were no further comments.

Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.



Mayor Pro Tem



ATTEST:



City Clerk